

--Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a national stage filing under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) for PCT international application number PCT/GB00/03597 filed on 19 September 2000, published under PCT Article 21(2) in English as WO 01/21833 on 29 March 2001. Both the international application and this national stage application claim the benefit of the filing date of GB 9922527.8 filed 24 September 1999.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 6-9 to read as follows:

6. (Amended) A method of claim 1 which further comprises the use of one or more common amplification primer(s) in the presence of appropriate nucleotide triphosphates and an agent for polymerization, and subjecting the mixture to PCR amplification such that a diagnostic primer is extended only when the corresponding allelic variant is present in the sample; and detecting the presence or absence of the allelic variant by reference to the presence or absence of a corresponding PCR amplification product.

7. (Amended) A method of claim 2 wherein two or more diagnostic primers are used as a multiplex.

8. (Amended) A method of claim 2 wherein all of the diagnostic primers are used in a single multiplex reaction.

9. (Amended) A method of claim 1 which further comprises the use of one or more control primers.